

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /063 W

-----151023Z 087514 /15

R 150857Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1130

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8136

FOL MSG FROM SONGKHLA SENT ACTION BANGKOK 15 APR IS REPEATED  
TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 0085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, TH, MY

SUBJECT: JOINT BORDER OPERATION TO END NEXT WEEK

1. ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA) OFFICERS IN SONGKHLA STATE THAT THE  
SECOND THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER OPERATION, DAO YAI-MUSNAH II, WILL  
PROBABLY END NEXT WEEK. THEY SAY THAT MOST TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN  
BUT PLANS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION TO LEAVE A NUMBER OF SMALLER UNITS  
IN PLACE TO AMBUSH INSURGENTS SHOULD THEY ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO  
CAMPS.

2. ON BALANCE THAI MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS THINK OPERATION  
HAS BEEN A QUALIFIED SUCCESS. ALTHOUGH FEW INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN  
KILLED OR CAPTURED, THEY CONTEND THAT LIMITED OBJECTIVE OF "NEU-  
TRALIZING THE JUNGLE" PREVIOUSLY THE EXCLUSIVE PRESERVE OF IN-  
SURGENTS, HAS BEEN ADVANCED BY DISRUPTING SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATION  
ROUTES, FORCING GUERRILLAS OUT OF SADAO SANCTUARIES, AND SEIZING  
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A NUMBER OF LARGE PERMANENT BASE CAMPS.

3. ACCORDING TO SONGKHLA VICE GOVERNOR CHAROENCHIT NA SONGKHLA,  
SOME INSURGENTS FORCED OUT OF SADAO HAVE MOVED INTO NATHAWI,  
CHANA, THEPHA, AND SABAYOI DISTRICTS OF SONGKHLA. THEY ARE THOUGHT  
TO BE VERY CLOSE TO POPULATED AREAS WHERE THEY PRESUMABLY HOPE TO  
WAIT OUT THE MILITARY OPERATIONS TAKING PLACE IN THE HILLS. VICE

GOVERNOR SAID VILLAGERS WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION TO RTG ABOUT COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) CAMP LOCATIONS HAVE RECEIVED THREATS THAT AS SOON AS GOVERNMENT FORCES WITHDRAW INSURGENTS WILL RETURN TO ELIMINATE THEM. SONGKHLA PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ARE CONSIDERING ARMING VILLAGERS WHO ARE TARGETS OF SUCH THREATS WITH SPRINGFIELD RIFLES NOW IN STORAGE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN SONGKHLA PROVIDING MINISTRY OF INTERIOR APPROVES THE PLAN.

5. QUESTION OF VILLAGE SECURITY HAS LONG BEEN DILEMMA FOR RTG I.E. GIVING VILLAGERS WEAPONS FOR SELF DEFENSE INVOLVES THE RISK THEY WILL FALL INTO INSURGENT HANDS IF VILLAGE IS ATTACKED. CHAROENCHIT NOTED THAT MOST OF THE WEAPONS CAPTURED BY INSURGENTS IN THE SOUTH HARKMAYBEEN TAKEN FROM THE POLICE WHO ABANDONED THEM UNDER ATTACK. HE HYUGHT VILLAGERS IN SADA0 WOULD BE MORE MOTIVATED TO USE WEAPONS FOR DEFENSE AND THEREFORE INTENDS TO PUSH HARD FOR AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE THE RIFLES.

6. COMMENT: MORE OPERATIONS ARE REPORTEDLY BEING PLANNED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON INSURGENTS IN THE BORDER AREA. AS LONG AS OBJECTIVE IS TO KEEP CPM OFF BALANCE AND ON THE MOVE, PRESENT TACTICS MAY BE EFFECTIVE. IF ACTUAL ELIMINATION OF INSURGENTS BECOMES THE OBJECTIVE, THEN LESS ADVERTISED OPERATIONS INVOLVING SMALLER UNITS REACTING TO MORE SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY.  
HAMILTON

UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PGOV, TH, MY  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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